



## **Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office**

### **Personnel Accounting Progress in China**

**As of January 1, 2006**

#### **Cold War Statistics**

Recovered Alive	Remains Recovered	Remains Identified	Remaining Unaccounted for
12	5	5	28 <sup>1</sup>

#### **China Operations**

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Identified</b>
Remains repatriated through unilateral operations (1975)	2	2
Remains recovered and repatriated through investigative and recovery operations since 1992	23	19
Total remains identified 1975 to present		21

#### **DPMO 2005 Goals**

- Maintain investigative and recovery efforts.
- Continue to encourage the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and People's Liberation Army (PLA) to research their military archives for information pertaining to American POWs during the Korean War and aircraft crash sites from all wars.
- Interact with other agencies, such as the Chinese Red Cross Society and veterans groups, to expand cooperation on accounting efforts in China.

#### **US Government Position**

- Chinese cooperation on Korean War cases remains our greatest challenge.

<sup>1</sup> January 18, 1953 – Chinese ground fire damaged a U.S. Navy P2V carrying 13 crew members, causing it to ditch in the Taiwan Straits. Initially, a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) PBM-5G aircraft with a crew of 8 rescued 11 of the P2V crew members; however, it crashed on take-off in heavy seas. The USS Halsey Powell rescued 10 crew members from both aircraft. Six P2V crew members and five PBM-5G crew members remain unaccounted for.

August 22, 1956 – Chinese fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy P4M carrying 16 crew members off the Zhoushan Archipelago. U.S. ships recovered two remains and the Chinese recovered and repatriated two other remains of crew members. 12 Americans remain unaccounted for.

October 01, 1958 – Cold War operational loss. The Taiwanese military chartered a civilian PBY-5A amphibious airplane, named "Blue Swan" or "Blue Goose," to ferry four U.S. servicemen and three Taiwanese officers from Matsu back to Taiwan, but it never arrived. The cause of disappearance has not been determined, and no wreckage or survivors were ever found, despite an intense three-day air-sea search. All onboard remain unaccounted for.

November 29, 1952 – The Chinese shot down a CIA-operated C-47 in Jilin Province. The pilot and co-pilot were killed in the crash, and two other crew members were captured and returned to U.S. control in 1971 and 1973. In 2004 JPAC recovered and identified the remains of the pilot. The co-pilot remains unaccounted for.

- PLA archives and Chinese veterans possess a wealth of information about Americans who remain unaccounted for from the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- The MFA is the U.S. Government's principal channel for engaging with the PLA to gain access to or information from these archive materials and witnesses.
- We also conduct meetings with Ministry of National Defense (MND) officials to pursue accounting efforts in China.

### **China Government Position**

- The Chinese understand the importance of the accounting issue to the American public.
- Cooperation on WWII, Cold War and Vietnam-era cases is cordial and, as information becomes available, productive. Until very recently, Korean War cooperation has been problematic, as the Chinese officially state that all Korean War cases involving China were resolved at the cessation of active hostilities.
- The Chinese view POW/MIA cooperation as a bilateral humanitarian issue within the purview of the MFA, not the PLA.

### **History**

- **1996:** People's Republic of China (PRC) President Jiang Zemin initiated discussion of POW/MIA cooperation with President Clinton at the APEC Summit in Manila.
- **1999:** In May, DASD (POW/MPA) Jones met with his MFA counterpart, Chen Mingming, who indicated a willingness to investigate clear and specific information on Korean War cases, but noted that Korean War archives belong to the PLA and remain classified.
- **2000:**
  - January: DPMO presented over 40 additional Korean War cases to the Chinese for investigation. The MFA agreed to launch an oral history program (OHP) allowing DPMO interviews with Chinese Korean War veterans involved in POW camp operations.
  - July: During his visit to Beijing, Secretary of Defense Cohen highlighted the importance of increased cooperation on Korean War accounting.
  - September: The OHP began in Beijing with interviews of four Chinese veterans.
- **2001:** January 9 – 14, six American Korean War veterans met with Chinese veterans in Beijing. This initiative was put on hold to establish U.S.-PRC academic exchanges focused on the Korean War and to pursue avenues for open source archival research
- **2002:**

- March: During President Bush's visit to China, Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly mentioned a Cold War C-47 case to the Deputy Director of North American Affairs, MFA, who was aware of the case and acknowledged our interest.
- May: A DPMO and Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii (CILHI) team met with the MFA in Beijing to negotiate support agreements for two WWII-era crash site recoveries in Tibet and to discuss other POW/MIA issues. The MFA agreed to support operations at both sites in Tibet and a survey of the Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province.
- July: A CILHI team and a DPMO analyst surveyed the C-47 crash site in Jilin Province, finding possible aircraft wreckage. Another team recovered four probable remains from a WWII C-46 crash site in Tibet. CILHI also investigated a second Tibet WWII C-46 crash site.
- **2003:**
  - March: DASD (POW/MPA) Jennings visited China to meet with representatives of the MFA, the MND, the PLA, and the Red Cross Society of China to enhance cooperation on personnel accounting initiatives.
  - April – July: The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) pandemic prevented DPMO and CILHI teams from conducting operations in China.
  - October: DPMO and Joint Personnel Accounting Command (JPAC) met with the MFA in Beijing to plan 2004 activities, which included two recovery operations and a site survey.
- **2004:**
  - February: Technical experts from DPMO and JPAC met with Chinese representatives in Beijing to discuss operational and logistical requirements for operations in 2004.
  - May – June: JPAC excavated a Korean War F-86 crash site near Dandong, Liaoning Province, recovering and identifying the remains of Air Force Captain Troy G. Cope, shot down in aerial combat on September 16, 1952. The Cope family buried Captain Cope with full military honors on May 31, 2005.
  - June: JPAC excavated a Cold War C-47 crash site in Jilin Province and recovered human remains and aircraft wreckage. JPAC later identified the remains as R.C. Snoddy and returned them to his family.
  - August – September: JPAC investigated a WWII C-46 crash site in Tibet and recovered personal effects and wreckage, but no human remains. Three crewmembers are unaccounted for from this aircraft loss.
  - November: DPMO and JPAC representatives met with Chinese government officials in Beijing to discuss proposals for possible field operations in China during 2005.

- **2005:**
  - **February 22 – 26:** DASD (POW/MPA) Jennings traveled to China to follow up on personnel accounting initiatives and press his counterparts for information from military archives relating to the PLA's administration of prisoner of war camps during the Korean War. He also persuaded the Chinese to allow us to investigate two WWII cases in Hunan and Shanxi Provinces, with the possibility of investigating two more WWII crash sites in Guangxi Province.
  - **March 4:** U.S. Embassy in Beijing forwarded information appearing in the *Business Times* about a B-29 bomber that crashed north of Dandong, China on January 13, 1953. 11 aircrew members were captured and held until 1955. The report states local farmers buried three crew members who died in the crash.
  - **May 9 – June 3:** JPAC investigated three WWII sites in Shanxi, and Guangxi Provinces and excavated a grave site in Changsha, Hunan Province. The grave site contained the remains of a WW II P-40 pilot, and in November, 2005 CILHI identified the remains.
  - **October 18 – 20:** Accompanied by ASD for International Security Affairs, Peter Rodman, and the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense, Asian and Pacific Affairs, Richard Lawless, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld pressed Ministry of Defense officials for U.S. access to information in military archives. The MND officials reportedly gave an encouraging but not definitive response. Secretary Rumsfeld also pressed for information on a 1956 loss off the Zhoushan Archipelago. During a later visit on December 7, 2005, the Chinese again replied to DUSD Lawless they had no additional information on this case.
  - **December 13:** Tech talks / Archive / vet discussions with MFA, MND, Red Cross.

## Personnel Accounting Operations conducted in China, 2005

